

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00815 051559Z
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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
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UNCLAS VALLETTA 00815

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TAGS: NATO, LY, UR
SUBJECT: PRESS INTERVIEW QUOTING ADMIRAL SHEAR

FOLLOWING SENT VALLETTA FROM USDOCOSOUTH DTG 311752Z MAR 78
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE
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PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR LAINGEN FROM ADMIRAL SHEAR
MALTANAPOLI ARTICLE REGARDING MALTA

A. AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 00727 DTG 310810Z MAR 78

1. THIS IS FOLLOW-UP TO YOUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MY
INTAF YESTERDAY AND REF A. AN ANALYSIS OF THE "INTERVIEW" IN
MALTANAPOLI CORRIERE MEDITERRANEO REVEALS IT IS A CONSOLIDATION
OF TWO PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS, NOT ONE BETWEEN THE REPORTER AND
MYSELF. THE PORTION CONCERNING MALTA IS ESSENTIALLY LIFTED FROM
A LONG INTERVIEW REPORT BY LEO WOLLEMBORG FROM IL TEMPO, 26 FEB 78.
THE FIRST TWO SENTENCES IN THE MALTA PARAGRAPH OF MALTANAPOLI
ARTICLE ARE PARAPHRASED FROM AN AP WIRE STORY FILED FROM ROME,
24 FEB 78, BY HILMI TOROS AFTER AN INTERVIEW WITH ME.
2. I GAVE BOTH INTERVIEWERS A BROAD-RANGED OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT
SITUATION, STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF NATO IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.
WHILE I REMINDED BOTH REPORTERS THAT I WAS A MILITARY MAN AND NOT

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PAGE 02 RUFRSGG8125 UNCLAS
A POLITICIAN, THERE ARE SOME CONCERNS AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN THAT
HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE ON NATO'S
SOUTHERN FLANK. MALTA, OF COURSE, IS ONE OF THOSE.
3. FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THESE TWO ARTICLES, THE PUBLISHER OF
MALTANAPOLI REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH ME CONCERNING MY VIEWS ON
MALTA. I CHOSE NOT TO GRANT THAT INTERVIEW, BECAUSE IT WAS TOO

NARROWLY FOCUSED AND I DID NOT WANT TO TAKE UP A CABAL FOR MALTA IN THAT WAY. INSTEAD, HOWEVER, I SAID THAT I WOULD STAND BY WHAT WOLLEMBORG REPORTED FROM MY INTERVIEW WITH HIM. BEFORE DOING THIS, HOWEVER, I CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE WOLLEMBORG PIECE TO ASSURE MYSELF THAT I COULD LIVE WITH IT. ALTHOUGH THE ARTICLE WAS NOT LETTER PERFECT I DECIDED THAT I COULD STAND BY IT, THAT IT WAS A LOGICAL STATEMENT WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED FROM A RESPONSIBLE NATO OFFICIAL.

4. IF YOU CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING FOR RELAY TO WASHINGTON.

5. WARM REGARDS.

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